

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/087 W

-----128797 222207Z /41

P R 222059Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5403  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
MFPGAMUESPR/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 145  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 11951

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OAS, CO  
SUBJ: HOW TO DEAL WITH URUGUAY'S OFFER TO HOLD THE VIII OAS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 304288

1. SUMMARY. COLOMBIA VIEWS ITSELF AS AN ARDENT DEFENDER OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA AND COULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED  
TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO BLOCK HOLDING THE VIII OASGA IN  
MONTEVIDEO. HOWEVER, THE NEWLY APPOINTED COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO  
THE OAS, WHOSE VIEWS WILL CARRY MUCH WEIGHT, FAVORS MONTEVIDEO  
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AS A MEETING SITE. EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONS IN BOGOTA AND AT THE  
OAS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENLIST COLOMBIA'S SUPPORT TO THWART  
URUGUAY'S BID. END SUMMARY.

2. WE BELIEVE THE GOC MIGHT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO A STRONG  
INITIATIVE TO BLOCK URUGUAY'S BID TO HOLD THE VIII OASGA IN  
MONTEVIDEO, BUT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT MAY BE NEEDED. COLOMBIA

PERCEIVES ITSELF AS A STRONG DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, ALTHOUGH ITS POLICY OF LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE CONCEPT OF A WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRADING BLOCK, HAS BEEN A DEVISIVE AND CONFUSING ELEMENT. HOWEVER, THE TRADING BLOCK ISSUE IS NOT LIKELY TO ARISE OVER THE QUESTION OF A UNGA MEETING IN MONTEVIDEOA.

3. A PROBABLE OBSTACLE TO GOC ASSISTANCE IN THWARTING URUGUAY'S BID IS THE NEWLY APPOINTED COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, JOAQUIN GORI. GORI HAS BEEN COLOMBIA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE IAHRC BUT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS HAS CONSISTENGLY SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE MORE SYMPATHETIC TO INTERNAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS URUGUAY THAN TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. POL COUNSELOR CALLED GORI DECEMBER 22 TO EXTEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, CONGRATULATE HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT, AND ASK WHEN HE WOULD TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON. GORI SAID HE WOULD TRY TO BE IN WASHINGTON IN TIME FOR DECEMBER 28 PERMANENT COUNCIL MEETING. GORI WENT ON TO GIVE HIS "PERSONAL OPINION" THAT OASGA SHOULD BE HELD IN MONTEVIDEO DESPITE URUGUAY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. HE EXPLAINED THAT OASGA MEETING IN MONTEVIDEO WOULD TEND TO REINFORCE THE CIVILIAN ELEMENT IN GOU, THAT THOSE ATTENDING MEETING WOULD BE ABLE TO INVESTIGATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY, AND THAT THE GOU WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MOVE TO CLEAN UP ITS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION BEFORE THE OASGA. GORI SAID THAT GOC HAD NOT YET  
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DEVELOPED AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE SUBJECT. POL COUNSELOR WAS NON-COMMITTAL TO GORI'S QUESTION AS TO USG POSITION.

5. COMMENT. GORI'S VIEWS ON URUGUAY'S OFFER WILL OBVIOUSLY CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN THE GOC. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THEM. TO DO SO, WE WILL REQUIRE TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINING CONVINCING ARGUMENTATION THAT WILL PERSUADE FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO TO OVERRIDE GORI'S VIEWS. SINCE THE GOC OFTEN GIVES CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE AND WEIGHT TO THE VIEWS OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL IF USOAS COULD WIN GORI OVER TO THE U.S. POSITION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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